

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 IO-14 ISO-00 AF-10 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-11

INR-10 LAB-06 NSAE-00 RSC-01 SIL-01 DODE-00 PM-07

H-03 L-03 NSC-07 PA-04 PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20 USIA-15

DRC-01 /143 W

----- 024106

R 031514Z MAY 74

FM AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8926

INFO USMISSION NATO

AMEMBASSY HELSINKI

AMEMBASSY LISBON

AMEMBASSY OSLO

AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK

AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

USMISSION USUN NEWYORK

C O N F I D E N T I A L COPENHAGEN 1220

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, EEC, NATO, PO

SUBJ: DANISH ATTITUDE TOWARD NEW PORTUGUESE GOVT

REF: COPENHAGEN 1110

SUMMARY: DANISH GOVT HAS QUIETLY ASSUMED RELATIONS WITH NEW PORTUGUESE GOVT. DANISH SOCIAL DEMOCRATS URGE THAT PORTUGUESE SD LEADER SOARES BE INVITED TO VISIT SCANDINAVIA. END SUMMARY.

1 ASSUMPTION OF POWER IN PORTUGAL BY GEN. SPINOLA HAS EVIDENTLY PUT RECENT DANISH SUGGESTION FOR US-EC CONSULTATIONS ON PORTUGUESE COLONIES ON THE BACK BURNER FOR TIME BEING. POLITICAL DIRECTOR OTTO BORCH, WHO RAISED QUESTION ORIGINALLY WITH DCM, HAS TOLD PRESS THAT "THERE IS NO SPECIAL PROBLEM FOR THE DANISH GOVT ON RECOGNITION OF NEW GOVT IN PORTUGAL. DANISH GOVT HAS RECEIVED A FORMAL MESSAGE ON THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE NEW GOVERNMENT AND WE INTEND TO ACKNOWLEDGE RECEIPT OF THIS MESSAGE AS A FORMALITY. THE OTHER NORDIC

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COUNTRIES WILL ADOPT A SIMILAR, PURELY PRACTICAL POSITION". MORE JUNIOR MFA OFFICIAL (KIMBERG) HAS CONFIRMED TO EMBOFF THAT REPLY WAS SENT MAY 2 BUT IT DID NOT SAY THAT THERE HAD BEEN NO BREAK IN RELATIONS, AS US AND SOME OTHER NATO COUNTRIES HAVE DONE. KIMBERG ADDED DANES FELT SUCH PHRASE NOT NECESSARY IN THEIR CASE. OTHER OFFICIALS, AS WELL AS DIPLOMATS AND JOURNALISTS HERE, CONTINUE TO WATCH SITUATION WITH KEEN INTEREST, HOPING THAT NEW GOVT CAN COPE WITH ITS MASSIVE PROBLEMS AND EVENTUALLY LEAD PORTUGAL AND ITS COLONIES TOWARD MORE HOPEFUL FUTURE.

2. FORMER FOREIGN MINISTER K.B. ANDERSEN HAS BEEN TYPICALLY LESS RESTRAINED IN HIS COMMENTS. DURING MAY DA MEETING IN COPENHAGEN, HE SAID THAT "FREEDOM MOVEMENTS (IN AFRICA) HAVE NOT CARRIED ON BLOODY STRUGGLE AGAINST DICTATORSHIP IN PORTUGAL BECAUSE THEY WISHED TO FOLLOW PATH OF VIOLENCE, BUT BECAUSE ARMED STRUGGLE WAS THE ONLY POSSIBILITY AGAINST A GOVT WHICH DID NOT WISH TO LISTEN TO THE DEMAND FOR FREEDOM". DANISH SOCIAL DEMOCRATS HAVE ALSO INDICATED THEY PLAN TO PROPOSE THAT PORTUGUESE SD LEADER MARIO SOARES BE INVITED TO VISIT NORDIC COUNTRIES. DANES REPORTEDLY INTEND TO RAISE THIS ISSUE MAY 3 DURING NORDIC SD AND TRADE UNION MEETING IN HELSINKI.

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: FOREIGN RELATIONS, GOVERNMENT OVERTHROW, PARAMILITARY FORCES, RECOGNITION, FOREIGN POLICY POSITION
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 03 MAY 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: boyleja
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974COPENH01220
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D740107-0532
From: COPENHAGEN
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19740577/aaaacrav.tel
Line Count: 83
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: COPENHAGEN 1110
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: boyleja
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 17 APR 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <17 APR 2002 by kelleyw0>; APPROVED <24-Sep-2002 by boyleja>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: DANISH ATTITUDE TOWARD NEW PORTUGUESE GOVT
TAGS: PFOR, PO, US, DA, EEC, NATO
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005